

# **BIRCH CREEK CULINARY WATER COMPANY (PWS 6210009) SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT FINAL REPORT**

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**January 7, 2003**



## **State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality**

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## Executive Summary

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, all states are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assess every source of public drinking water for its relative sensitivity to contaminants regulated by the act. This assessment is based on a land use inventory of the designated assessment areas and sensitivity factors associated with the spring and the aquifer characteristics.

This report, *Source Water Assessment for Birch Creek Culinary Water Company, Preston, Idaho*, describes the public water system (PWS), the boundaries of the zones of water contribution, and the associated potential contaminant sources located within these boundaries. This assessment should be used as a planning tool, taken into account with local knowledge and concerns, to develop and implement appropriate protection measures for this source. **The results should not be used as an absolute measure of risk and they should not be used to undermine public confidence in the water system.**

The Birch Creek Culinary Water Company public water system (PWS # 6210009) is a community drinking water system located in Franklin County. The Birch Creek Spring is the system's sole source of water and is located twelve miles northeast of Preston and approximately two miles upstream of Birch Creek from its confluence with Mink Creek. The spring was developed in 1916 and supplies drinking water to approximately 120 persons through 31 connections. Water from the spring is disinfected using gas chlorine and stored in a 24,000-gallon storage tank located between the spring and the community.

The potential contaminant sources within the delineation capture zone are Birch Creek and Birch Creek Road. If an accidental spill occurred into either of these corridors, inorganic chemical (IOC) contaminants, volatile organic chemical (VOC) contaminants, synthetic organic chemical (SOC) contaminants, or microbial contaminants could be added to the aquifer systems. No other potential contaminant sources were identified within the delineated area that may contribute to the overall vulnerability of the water source.

Final spring susceptibility scores are derived from heavily weighting potential contaminant inventory/land use scores and adding them with system construction scores. Therefore, a low rating in one category coupled with a higher rating in the other category results in a final rating of low, moderate, or high susceptibility. Potential contaminants are divided into four categories: IOCs (i.e., nitrates, arsenic), VOCs (i.e., petroleum products), SOC (i.e., pesticides), and microbial contaminants (i.e., bacteria). As a spring can be subject to various contamination settings, separate scores are given for each type of contaminant.

For the assessment, a review of laboratory tests was conducted using the State Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS). The last detection of total coliform bacteria in the distribution system was recorded in September 1999. No SOC's or VOC's have been detected in the spring water. The IOC nitrate has been detected in the spring water but at concentrations below the maximum contaminant level (MCL) as established by the EPA. Additionally, traces of alpha and beta particles (radionuclides) have been detected in the drinking water.

In terms of total susceptibility, the spring rated low for IOC's, VOC's, SOC's, and microbial contaminants. System construction rated moderate and potential contaminant/land use scores were low for IOC's, VOC's, SOC's, and microbials.

This assessment should be used as a basis for determining appropriate new protection measures or re-evaluating existing protection efforts. No matter what ranking a source receives, protection is always important. Whether the source is currently located in a "pristine" area or an area with numerous industrial and/or agricultural land uses that require surveillance, the way to ensure good water quality in the future is to act now to protect valuable water supply resources. If the system should need to expand in the future, new well or spring sites should be located in areas with as few potential sources of contamination as possible, and the site should be reserved and protected for this specific use.

An effective drinking water protection program is tailored to the particular local drinking water protection area. A community with a fully developed drinking water protection program will incorporate many strategies. For the Birch Creek Culinary Water Company, drinking water protection activities should first focus on correcting any deficiencies outlined in the sanitary survey (an inspection conducted every five years with the purpose of determining the physical condition of a water system's components and its capacity). Attention should be paid to installing noncorrodible screen over the spring overflow opening. As land uses within most of the source water assessment areas are outside the direct control of the Birch Creek Culinary Water Company, collaboration and partnerships with state and local agencies, and industry groups should be established and are critical to success. Educating employees and the public about source water will further assist the system in its monitoring and protection efforts

Due to the time involved with the movement of ground water, drinking water protection activities should be aimed at long-term management strategies even though these strategies may not yield results in the near term. A strong public education program should be a primary focus of any drinking water protection plan. Public education topics could include household hazardous waste disposal methods and the importance of water conservation. There are multiple resources available to help communities implement protection programs, including the Drinking Water Academy of the EPA. Drinking water protection activities for agriculture should be coordinated with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, the Franklin County Soil Conservation District, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

A community must incorporate a variety of strategies in order to develop a comprehensive drinking water protection plan, be they regulatory in nature (e.g., zoning, permitting) or non-regulatory in nature (e.g., good housekeeping, public education, specific best management practices). For assistance in developing protection strategies please contact the Pocatello Regional Office of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality or the Idaho Rural Water Association.

# **SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT FOR BIRCH CREEK CULINARY WATER COMPANY, PRESTON, IDAHO**

## **Section 1. Introduction - Basis for Assessment**

The following sections contain information necessary to understand how and why this assessment was conducted. **It is important to review this information to understand what the ranking of this assessment means.** Maps showing the delineated source water assessment area and the inventory of significant potential sources of contamination identified within that area are included. The list of significant potential contaminant source categories and their rankings used to develop the assessment also is included.

### **Level of Accuracy and Purpose of the Assessment**

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assess over 2,900 public drinking water sources in Idaho for their relative susceptibility to contaminants regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act. This assessment is based on a land use inventory of the delineated assessment area, sensitivity factors associated with the spring, and aquifer characteristics. All assessments must be completed by May of 2003. The resources and time available to accomplish assessments are limited. Therefore, an in-depth, site-specific investigation to identify each significant potential source of contamination for every public water supply system is not possible. **This assessment should be used as a planning tool, taken into account with local knowledge and concerns, to develop and implement appropriate protection measures for this source. The results should not be used as an absolute measure of risk and they should not be used to undermine public confidence in the public water system (PWS).**

The ultimate goal of the assessment is to provide data to local communities to develop a protection strategy for their drinking water supply system. DEQ recognizes that pollution prevention activities generally require less time and money to implement than treatment of a public water supply system once it has been contaminated. DEQ encourages communities to balance resource protection with economic growth and development. The decision as to the amount and types of information necessary to develop a drinking water protection program should be determined by the local community based on its own needs and limitations. Wellhead or drinking water protection is one facet of a comprehensive growth plan, and it can complement ongoing local planning efforts.

## **Section 2. Conducting the Assessment**

### **General Description of the Source Water Quality**

The Birch Creek Culinary Water Company PWS (# 6210009) is a community drinking water system located in Franklin County (see Figure 1). The Birch Creek Spring is the system's sole source of water and is located twelve miles northeast of Preston and approximately two miles upstream of Birch Creek from its confluence with Mink Creek. The spring was developed in 1916 and supplies drinking water to approximately 112 persons through 28 connections. Water from the spring is disinfected using gas chlorine and stored in a 24,000-gallon concrete tank located between the spring and the community.

The last detection of total coliform bacteria in the distribution system was recorded in September 1999. No bacterial detection has occurred at the spring thus far. No SOCs or VOCs have been detected in the spring water. The IOC nitrate has been detected in the spring water but at concentrations below the MCL as established by the EPA.

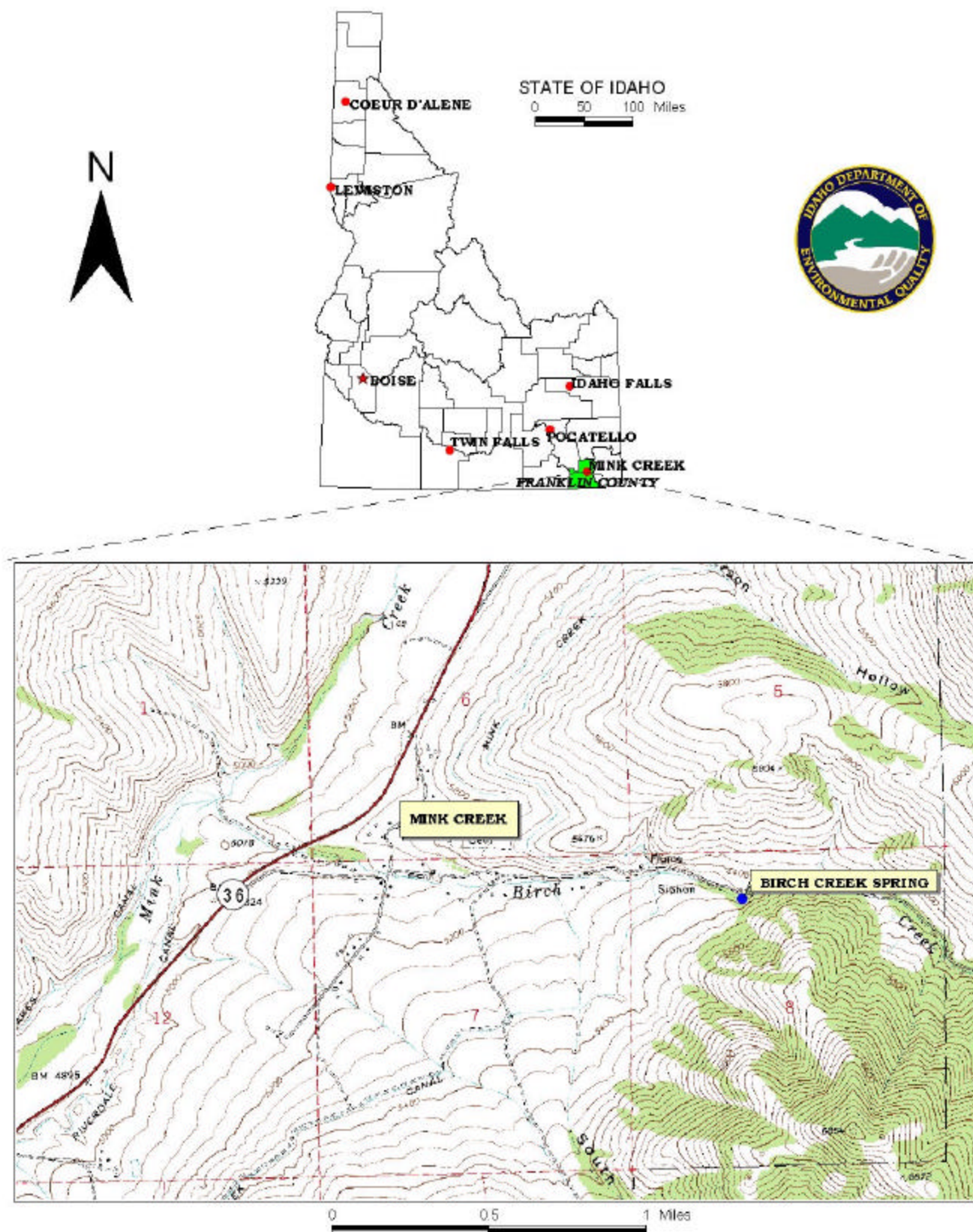
### **Defining the Zones of Contribution – Delineation**

The delineation process establishes the physical area around a spring that will become the focal point of the assessment. The process includes mapping the boundaries of the zone of contribution into time-of-travel (TOT) zones (zones indicating the number of years necessary for a particle of water to reach a flowing spring) for water in the aquifer. Washington Group International (WGI) was contracted by DEQ to define the public water system's zones of contribution. WGI used a topographic method approved by the Source Water Assessment Plan (DEQ, 1999) in determining the delineated area (which includes only the 3-year TOT zone) for water associated with the "None" hydrologic province in the vicinity of the Birch Creek Culinary Water Company. WGI examined topographic and surface geologic maps to identify ground water flow boundaries. A summary of the hydrogeologic information from the WGI is provided below.

### **Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model**

Graham and Campbell (1981) identified and described 70 regional ground water systems throughout Idaho. Thirty-four of these fall within the southeastern part of the state. The "None" hydrologic province, as defined in this report, includes all the area outside of the 34 regional systems in southeast Idaho. The smaller and more localized aquifers in the "None" province typically are situated in the foothills and mountains that surround and recharge the regional ground water systems.

**FIGURE 1. Geographic Location of the Birch Creek Culinary Water Company**



The mountains and valleys within the “None” hydrologic province were formed during two events separated by approximately 50 to 70 million years (Alt and Hyndman, 1989, pp. 329 and 336). The overthrust belt of the northern Rocky Mountains was formed roughly 70 to 90 million years ago through the intrusion of granitic magma and a massive eastward movement of large slabs of layered sedimentary rocks along faults that dip shallowly westward (Alt and Hyndman, 1989, p. 329). This movement caused extreme folding and fracturing of the sedimentary and granitic rocks and, in many cases, left older formations lying on top of younger ones. Later Basin and Range block faulting broke up the largely eroded Rocky Mountains into large uplifted and downthrown blocks resulting in the present day northwest trending mountains and valleys seen throughout southeast Idaho. Paleozoic and Precambrian limestone, dolomite, sandstone, shale, siltstone, and quartzite are the predominant materials forming the mountains and probably compose the bedrock underlying the valleys between Salmon, Idaho on the north side of the Snake River Plain and Franklin, Idaho near the Utah/Idaho border (Dion, 1969, p.18; Kariya et al., 1994, p. 6; Bjorklund and McGreevy, 1971, p. 12; and Parlman, 1982, p. 9).

Ground water movement in the mountains is primarily through a system of solution channels, fractures and joints that commonly transmit water independently of surface topography (Bjorklund and McGreevy, 1971, p. 15; Dion, 1969, p. 18). Ralston and others (1979, pp. 128-129) state that the geologic structural features also can contribute to the development of cross-basin ground water flow systems. Ground water entering a geologic formation tends to follow the formation because hydraulic conductivities are greater parallel to the bedding planes than across them. Synclines and anticlines provide structural avenues for ground water flow under ridges from one valley to another.

The average annual precipitation in the mountains of southeast Idaho ranges from 20 inches on ridges near Soda Springs to over 45 inches on the Bear River Range (Ralston and Trihey, 1975, p. 7, and Dion, 1969, p. 11). The valleys receive an average of 7 to 10 inches annually (Donato, 1998, p. 3, and Dion, 1969, p. 11). Precipitation and seepage from streams are the primary source of recharge to the mountain aquifers (Kariya, et al., 1994, p. 18, and Parlman, 1982, p. 13).

Ground water discharge occurs as springs and seeps issuing from faults, fractures, and solution channels and as underflow to regional aquifers. The Bear River Basin in the far southeast corner of the state contains hundreds of springs issuing primarily from fractures and solution openings in the bedrock mountains (Dion, 1969, p. 47, and Bjorklund and McGreevy, 1971, pp. 34-35). Within Cache Valley many springs discharge from the valley-fill deposits (Kariya et al., 1994, p. 32).

There is little available information on the distribution of hydraulic head and the hydraulic properties of the aquifers in the “None” hydrologic province. No U.S. Geological Survey (2001) or Idaho Statewide Monitoring Network (Neely, 2001) wells are located in the areas of concern to provide information on ground water flow direction and hydraulic gradient or to aid in model calibration. The information that is available indicates that the hydraulic properties are quite variable, even within a specific rock type. Ralston and others (1979, p. 31), for example, present hydraulic conductivity estimates for fractured chert ranging from 2.2 to 75 feet per day (ft/day). Estimates for phosphatic shale are as low as 0.07 ft/day (unfractured) and as high as 25 ft/day (fractured).



## **Springs and Spring Delineation Methods**

A spring is defined as a concentrated discharge of ground water appearing at the ground surface as flowing water (Todd, 1980). The discharge of a spring depends on the hydraulic conductivity of the aquifer, the area of contributing recharge to the aquifer, and the rate of aquifer recharge. PWS springs are generally perennial. Large seasonal changes in the discharge rates are an indication of a relatively shallow flow system. While most springs fluctuate in their rate of discharge, springs in volcanic rock (e.g., basalt) are noted for their nearly constant discharge (Todd, 1980).

Delineation of the drinking water protection area for a spring involves special consideration. Hydrogeologic setting is foremost among the factors that control the shape and extent of the capture zone. A spring resulting from the presence of a high permeability fracture extending to great depth will have a much different capture zone than a depression spring formed where the ground surface intersects the water table in an unconsolidated aquifer.

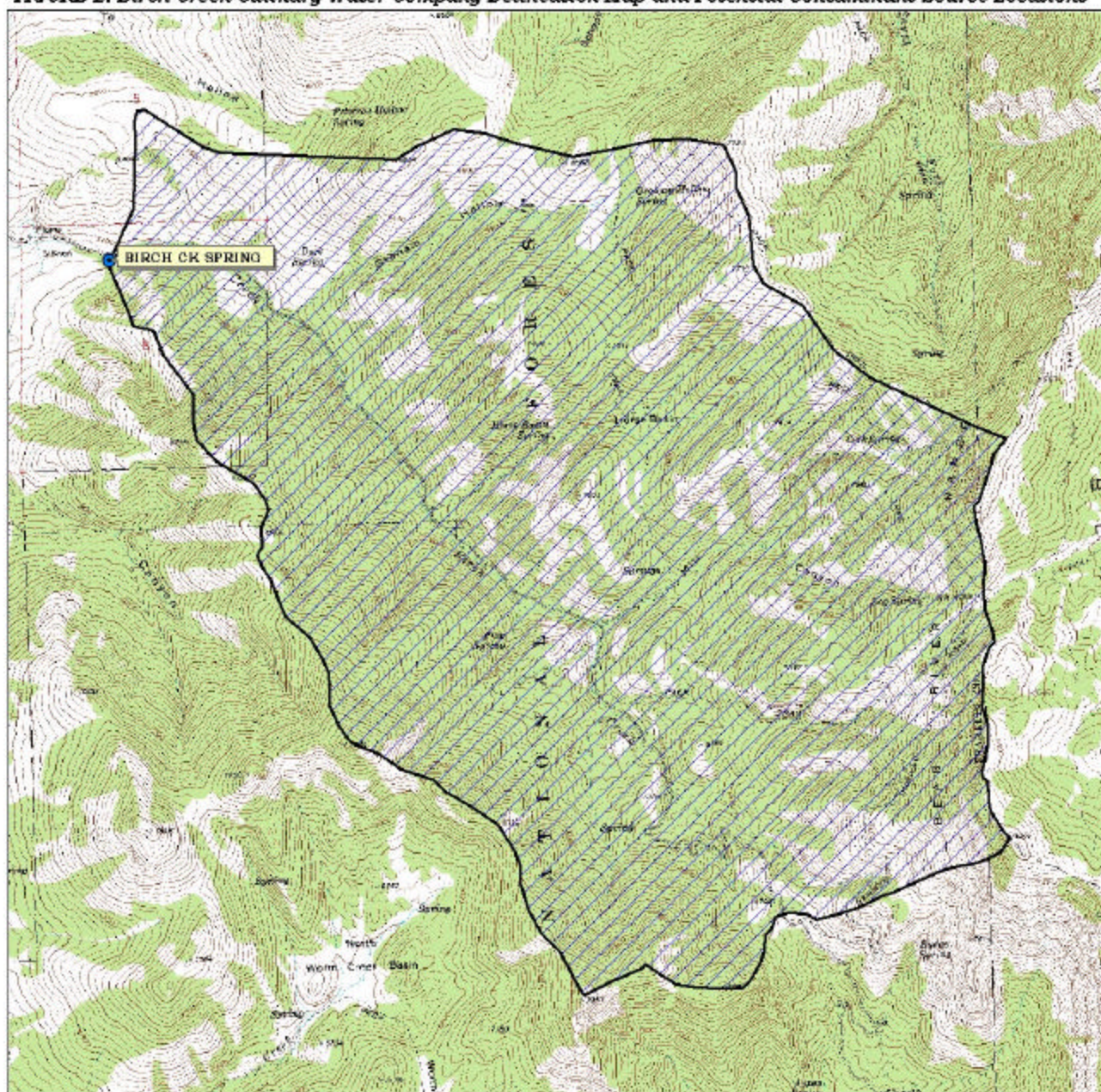
### **Topographic Method**

The topographic method was used to delineate the source water assessment area for the Birch Creek Culinary Water Company Spring. Topographic maps (1:24,000 scale) were examined to identify the topographic divides bounding the drainage basins surrounding the Birch Creek Culinary Water Company spring. The assumption was made that ground-water divides, which represent hydrologic boundaries to ground water flow, are coincident with the topographic divides. Perennial streams or other surface water bodies that may imply the presence of hydrologic boundaries were identified.

Surface geologic maps were also used to identify low-permeability lithologic units that may form ground water flow boundaries and to infer the extent of lithologic units that provide water to springs. Calculating the amount of recharge needed to produce the average reported spring discharge checked the reasonableness of a topographic delineation. The required recharge was then compared to the average yearly precipitation in the area surrounding the spring.

The delineated source water assessment area for the Birch Creek Culinary Water Company Spring can be described as an irregularly shaped area that extends from the spring, up Birch Creek, and includes some of the Bear River Range. The total area of the delineation is 5,381 acres. The area includes a 100-foot buffer that was added downgradient of each spring to provide an additional factor of safety (see Figure 2). The actual data used by WGI in determining the source water assessment delineation area is available from DEQ upon request.

**FIGURE 2. Birch Creek Culinary Water Company Delineation Map and Potential Contaminant Source Locations**



**PWS# 6210009**  
**BIRCH CK SPRING**



## Identifying Potential Sources of Contamination

A potential source of contamination is defined as any facility or activity that stores, uses, or produces, as a product or by-product, the contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Furthermore, these sources have a sufficient likelihood of releasing such contaminants into the environment at levels that could pose a concern relative to drinking water sources. The goal of the inventory process is to locate and describe those facilities, land uses, and environmental conditions that are potential sources of ground water contamination. Field surveys conducted by DEQ and reviews of available databases identified Birch Creek and Birch Creek Road as potential contaminant sources within the delineated area.

It is important to understand that a release may never occur from a potential source of contamination provided they are using best management practices. Many potential sources of contamination are regulated at the federal level, state level, or both, to reduce the risk of release. Therefore, when a business, facility, or property is identified as a potential contaminant source, this should not be interpreted to mean that this business, facility, or property is in violation of any local, state, or federal environmental law or regulation. What it does mean is that the potential for contamination exists due to the nature of the business, industry, or operation. There are a number of methods that water systems can use to work cooperatively with potential sources of contamination, including educational visits and inspections of stored materials. Many owners of such facilities may not even be aware that they are located near a public water supply source.

## Contaminant Source Inventory Process

A two-phased contaminant inventory of the study area was conducted in August and September 2002. The first phase involved identifying and documenting potential contaminant sources within the Birch Creek Culinary Water Company source water assessment area through the use of computer databases and Geographic Information System (GIS) maps developed by DEQ. The second, or enhanced, phase of the contaminant inventory involved contacting the operator to identify and add any additional potential sources in the delineated areas. The enhanced inventory was completed with the assistance of Scott Seamons and no additional potential contaminant sources were found within the delineated source water area. A map with the spring location, delineated areas, and potential contaminant sources are provided with this report (see Table 1, Figure 2).

**Table 1. Birch Creek Culinary Water Company Spring, Potential Contaminant Inventory**

Site #	Source Description	TOT Zone (years)	Source of Information	Potential Contaminants <sup>1</sup>
	Birch Creek Road	0-3	GIS Map	IOC, VOC, SOC, Microbials
	Birch Creek	0-3	GIS Map	IOC, VOC, SOC, Microbials

<sup>1</sup> IOC = inorganic chemical, VOC = volatile organic chemical, SOC = synthetic organic chemical

### **Section 3. Susceptibility Analyses**

The spring's susceptibility to contamination was ranked as high, moderate, or low risk according to the following considerations: construction, land use characteristics, and potentially significant contaminant sources. The higher the ranking the system receives in any of the considerations or in the total susceptibility of the system, the more vulnerable the system is to contamination. The susceptibility rankings are specific to a particular potential contaminant or category of contaminants. Therefore, a high susceptibility rating relative to one potential contaminant does not mean that the water system is at the same risk for all other potential contaminants. The relative ranking that is derived for the spring is a qualitative, screening-level step that, in many cases, uses generalized assumptions and best professional judgement. Attachment A contains the susceptibility analysis worksheet. The following summaries describe the rationale for the susceptibility ranking.

#### **Spring Construction**

Spring construction scores are determined by evaluating whether the spring has been constructed according to Idaho Code (IDAPA 58.01.08.04) and if the spring's water is exposed to any potential contaminants from the time it exits the bedrock to when it enters the distribution system. If the spring's intake structure, infiltration gallery, and housing are located and constructed in such a manner as to be permanent and protect it from all potential contaminants, is contained within a fenced area of at least 100 feet in radius, and is protected from all surface water by diversions, berms, etc., then Idaho Code is being met and the score will be lower. If the spring's water comes in contact with the open atmosphere before it enters the distribution system, it receives a higher score. Likewise, if the spring's water is piped directly from the bedrock to the distribution system or is collected in a protected spring box without any contact to potential surface-related contaminants, the score is lower.

The Birch Creek spring was developed in 1916. It supplies water to 120 persons through 31 connections. Water is collected from a perforated 30-inch ductile iron pipe. A concrete box, built into the side of the hill collects the water from the spring. A flap gate in the front of the box serves as an overflow, discharging to the creek. The box is screened behind the flap gate. A four-inch cast iron pipe carries the water from the concrete box to a concrete 24,000-gallon storage reservoir located on a hill between the spring and town. The spring area is fenced and a ditch above the spring diverts surface water runoff around the collection area. The water from the spring is disinfected using chlorine gas. The disinfecting system is located in a small wooden building approximately 60 feet below the spring box.

The spring rated moderate for system construction (see Table 2). Positively affecting the score is the fact that water destined for the distribution system is collected from underground and enters the distribution system without contacting the atmosphere, and surface water is diverted away from the spring. The 2000 sanitary survey noted that the spring area is fenced. However, it is unknown if the fence surrounds 100 feet or more of the perimeter of the spring. Additionally, the owner of the property and the legal control of the property surrounding the water system are also unknown, making it difficult to determine if the spring can be properly protected.

## Potential Contaminant Source and Land Use

The spring rated low for IOC's (i.e., nitrates, arsenic), VOCs (i.e., petroleum products), SOC's (i.e., pesticides), and microbial contaminants (i.e., bacteria). The predominant land use within the area of the spring is rangeland or woodlands. Potential contaminant point sources existing within the delineation is Birch Creek and Birch Creek Road.

## Final Susceptibility Ranking

A detection above a drinking water standard MCL, any detection of a VOC or SOC, or a confirmed microbial detection at the spring will automatically give a high susceptibility rating to the spring, despite the land use of the area, because a pathway for contamination already exists. Additionally, potential contaminant sources within 100 feet of a spring will automatically lead to a high susceptibility rating. Having multiple potential contaminant sources in the 0- to 3-year TOT zone (Zone 1B) contribute greatly to the overall ranking.

**Table 2. Summary of Birch Creek Culinary Water System Spring Susceptibility Evaluation**

Susceptibility Scores <sup>1</sup>									
Well	Potential Contaminant Inventory				System Construction	Final Susceptibility Ranking			
	IOC	VOC	SOC	Microbials		IOC	VOC	SOC	Microbials
Spring	L	L	L	L	M	L	L	L	L

<sup>1</sup>H = High Susceptibility, M = Moderate Susceptibility, L = Low Susceptibility,  
IOC = inorganic chemical, VOC = volatile organic chemical, SOC = synthetic organic chemical

## Susceptibility Summary

In terms of total susceptibility, the spring rated low for IOC's, VOCs, SOC's, and microbial contaminants. System construction rated moderate and potential contaminant/land use scores were low for IOC's, VOCs, SOC's, and microbials.

The last detection of total coliform bacteria in the distribution system was recorded in September 1999. No bacterial detection has occurred at the spring thus far. No SOC's or VOCs have been detected in the spring water. The IOC nitrate has been detected in the spring water but at concentrations below the MCL as established by the EPA. Additionally, traces of alpha and beta particles (radionuclides) have been detected in the drinking water.

## **Section 4. Options for Drinking Water Protection**

This assessment should be used as a basis for determining appropriate new protection measures or re-evaluating existing protection efforts. No matter what ranking a source receives, protection is always important. Whether the source is currently located in a “pristine” area or an area with numerous industrial and/or agricultural land uses that require surveillance, the way to ensure good water quality in the future is to act now to protect valuable water supply resources. If the system should need to expand in the future, new well or spring sites should be located in areas with as few potential sources of contamination as possible, and the site should be reserved and protected for this specific use.

An effective drinking water protection program is tailored to the particular local drinking water protection area. A community with a fully developed drinking water protection program will incorporate many strategies. For the Birch Creek Culinary Water Company, drinking water protection activities should first focus on correcting any deficiencies outlined in the sanitary survey. Attention should be paid to installing a noncorrodible screen over the spring overflow opening. As land uses within most of the source water assessment areas are outside the direct control of the Birch Creek Culinary Water Company, collaboration and partnerships with state and local agencies and industry groups should be established and are critical to success. Educating employees and the public about source water will further assist the system in its monitoring and protection efforts.

Due to the time involved with the movement of ground water, drinking water protection activities should be aimed at long-term management strategies even though these strategies may not yield results in the near term. A strong public education program should be a primary focus of any drinking water protection plan. Public education topics could include household hazardous waste disposal methods and the importance of water conservation. There are multiple resources available to help communities implement protection programs, including the Drinking Water Academy of the EPA. Drinking water protection activities for agriculture should be coordinated with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, the Franklin County Soil Conservation District, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

A community must incorporate a variety of strategies in order to develop a comprehensive drinking water protection plan, be they regulatory in nature (e.g., zoning, permitting) or non-regulatory in nature (e.g., good housekeeping, public education, specific best management practices). For assistance in developing protection strategies please contact the Pocatello Regional Office of the DEQ or the Idaho Rural Water Association.

## Assistance

Public water supplies and others may call the following DEQ offices with questions about this assessment and to request assistance with developing and implementing a local protection plan. In addition, draft protection plans may be submitted to the DEQ office for preliminary review and comments.

Pocatello Regional DEQ Office                      (208) 236-6160

State DEQ Office    (208) 373-0502

Website: <http://www.deq.state.id.us>

Water suppliers serving fewer than 10,000 persons may contact Melinda Harper ([mlharper@idahoruralwater.com](mailto:mlharper@idahoruralwater.com)), Idaho Rural Water Association, at (208) 343-7001 for assistance with drinking water protection (formerly wellhead protection) strategies.

## POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT INVENTORY LIST OF ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

**AST (Aboveground Storage Tanks)** – Sites with aboveground storage tanks.

**Business Mailing List** – This list contains potential contaminant sites identified through a yellow pages database search of standard industry codes (SIC).

**CERCLA** – This includes sites considered for listing under the **Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)**. CERCLA, more commonly known as Superfund is designed to clean up hazardous waste sites that are on the national priority list (NPL).

**Cyanide Site** – DEQ permitted and known historical sites/facilities using cyanide.

**Dairy** – Sites included in the primary contaminant source inventory represent those facilities regulated by Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and may range from a few head to several thousand head of milking cows.

**Deep Injection Well** – Injection wells regulated under the Idaho Department of Water Resources generally for the disposal of stormwater runoff or agricultural field drainage.

**Enhanced Inventory** – Enhanced inventory locations are potential contaminant source sites added by the water system. These can include new sites not captured during the primary contaminant inventory, or corrected locations for sites not properly located during the primary contaminant inventory. Enhanced inventory sites can also include miscellaneous sites added by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) during the primary contaminant inventory.

**Floodplain** – This is a coverage of the 100-year floodplains.

**Group 1 Sites** – These are sites that show elevated levels of contaminants and are not within the priority one areas.

**Inorganic Priority Area** – Priority one areas where greater than 25% of the wells/springs show constituents higher than primary standards or other health standards.

**Landfill** – Areas of open and closed municipal and non-municipal landfills.

**LUST (Leaking Underground Storage Tank)** – Potential contaminant source sites associated with leaking underground storage tanks as regulated under RCRA.

**Mines and Quarries** – Mines and quarries permitted through the Idaho Department of Lands.)

**Nitrate Priority Area** – Area where greater than 25% of wells/springs show nitrate values above 5mg/l.

**NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System)** – Sites with NPDES permits. The Clean Water Act requires that any discharge of a pollutant to waters of the United States from a point source must be authorized by an NPDES permit.

**Organic Priority Areas** – These are any areas where greater than 25% of wells/springs show levels greater than 1% of the primary standard or other health standards.

**Recharge Point** – This includes active, proposed, and possible recharge sites on the Snake River Plain.

**RCRA** – Site regulated under **Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA)**. RCRA is commonly associated with the cradle to grave management approach for generation, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes.

**SARA Tier II (Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act Tier II Facilities)** – These sites store certain types and amounts of hazardous materials and must be identified under the Community Right to Know Act.

**Toxic Release Inventory (TRI)** – The toxic release inventory list was developed as part of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know (Community Right to Know) Act passed in 1986. The Community Right to Know Act requires the reporting of any release of a chemical found on the TRI list.

**UST (Underground Storage Tank)** – Potential contaminant source sites associated with underground storage tanks regulated as regulated under RCRA.

**Wastewater Land Applications Sites** – These are areas where the land application of municipal or industrial wastewater is permitted by DEQ.

**Wellheads** – These are drinking water well locations regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. They are not treated as potential contaminant sources.

**NOTE:** Many of the potential contaminant sources were located using a geocoding program where mailing addresses are used to locate a facility. Field verification of potential contaminant sources is an important element of an enhanced inventory.



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## Attachment A

Birch Creek Culinary Water Company

### Susceptibility Analysis Worksheet

### **Susceptibility Analysis Formulas**

#### **Formula for Spring Sources**

The final spring scores for the susceptibility analysis were determined using the following formulas:

1. VOC/SOC/IOC/ Final Score = (Potential Contaminant/Land Use X 0.818) + System Construction
2. Microbial Final Score = (Potential Contaminant/Land Use X 1.125) + System Construction

#### **Final Susceptibility Scoring:**

- 0 - 7 Low Susceptibility
- 8 - 15 Moderate Susceptibility
- ≥ 16 High Susceptibility

## 1. System Construction

SCORE

Intake structure properly constructed

NO

1

Is the water first collected from an underground source

Yes= spring developed to collect water from beneath the ground; lower score

YES

0

No=water collected after it contacts the atmosphere or unknown; higher score

Total System Construction Score 1

## 3. Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1A

IOC  
ScoreVOC  
ScoreSOC  
ScoreMicrobial  
Score

Land Use Zone 1A

RANGELAND, WOODLAND, BASALT

0

0

0

0

Farm chemical use high

NO

0

0

0

IOC, VOC, SOC, or Microbial sources in Zone 1A

NO

NO

NO

NO

NO

Total Potential Contaminant Source/Land Use Score - Zone 1A

0

0

0

0

## Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1B

Contaminant sources present (Number of Sources)

YES

2

2

2

2

(Score = # Sources X 2 ) 8 Points Maximum

4

4

4

4

Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or

YES

2

2

2

4 Points Maximum

2

2

2

Zone 1B contains or intercepts a Group 1 Area

NO

0

0

0

0

Land use Zone 1B

Less Than 25% Agricultural Land

0

0

0

0

Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone 1B

6

6

6

4

Cumulative Potential Contaminant / Land Use Score

6

6

6

4

## 4. Final Susceptibility Source Score

6

6

6

6

## 5. Final Well Ranking

Low

Low

Low

Low